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THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Yes, Sir. They have given discretion to the State Government to fix the date from which that order should take effect. We have not yet fixed any date."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" Will the Hon. Minister please tell us whether it is not a fact that in Madras rice was sold by weight instead of by measure, as an experimental measure some two or three months back? "

MR. SPEAKER :—" This question has nothing to do with the main question. I have, however, no objection to the Hon. Minister answering it."

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Notice, Sir."

SRI K. R. SAMBANDAM :—" Sir, if the Government allow the sale of salt by weight, who will fix the price, is it the Government or the merchant? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" I do not know whether there is control over the price of salt. If there is no control, then the Government will not have any hand in it."

SRI P. V. R. GAJAPATHI RAJU :—" Sir, is the Hon. Minister aware that a few years back, the Government wanted to standardize weights and measures in the Presidency? I would like to know what steps the Government have taken in the matter."

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" I would suggest to the hon. Member to put a separate question."

The Malampuzha Project.

* 96 *Q.*—SRI P. KUNHI RAMA KIDAV : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) why the construction of the Malampuzha Project is slackened; and

(*b*) when will its construction be completed according to the present plan?

THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—" (*a*) On account of the uncertainty regarding availability of funds, work had to be slowed down in March and again early in June; but now that the Government of India have agreed to give a loan to meet expenditure on the scheme in the current year, work is now in full swing.

" (*b*) In 1954."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" May I know, Sir, whether the function of this Government in relation to this Malampuzha Scheme is only that of an agent, and they are to speed up construction when funds are allotted and to slow down the work when funds run out? "

THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—" No, Sir."

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SRI A. APPU :—" Sir, what is the estimated total cost of the scheme and what is the amount spent so far? "

THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—" The estimated cost of the scheme is Rs. 3·8 crores. Up till now, the amount spent is about Rs. 175 lakhs."

SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR :—" Sir, since only one crore of rupees has been allotted, will the Government consider taking over Rs. 60 lakhs or Rs. 70 lakhs available with the producer-*cum*-consumer societies as reserve fund for being utilized in this scheme? "

THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—" That question does not arise. Now we have got only one crore of rupees."

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU :—" As the funds allotted to this work are not sufficient to complete the work in this year itself, will the Government consider the question of increasing the funds? "

THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—" The hon. Member has not understood my reply properly. The scheme is expected to be completed only by 1954. How can we expect the scheme to be completed by the end of 1952? "

SRI T. NAGI REDDI :—" Sir, if the scheme according to plan is expected to be completed only in 1954, and yet there are chances of completing it earlier than 1954, will the Government not consider its completion earlier, and will they complete the work only in 1954 simply because it is so put down in the plan? "

THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—" I do not understand the hon. and learned Gentleman's argument that it can be completed in 1952. Perhaps he has a separate plan."

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN :—" May I know, Sir, the cost per acre of the Malampuzha Scheme? "

THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—" I have not calculated it, but if my friend wants information as to the extent of acreage that will be benefited by the scheme, I am prepared to give it. The existing irrigation is for about 40,000 acres. This scheme is expected to stabilize supply to the existing irrigation area which is 40,000 acres (double-crop land) and bring under new cultivation dry lands to the extent of 5,800 acres; and also facilitate cultivation of second crop on single-crop lands to the extent of 7,100 acres; and third crop on double-crop lands to the extent of 11,350 acres."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" May I know, Sir, why the project was slowed down when, according to the preliminary account Rs. 2 lakhs less has been spent on the project while, on the Lower Bhavani Project the estimate was exceeded by Rs. 7 lakhs, and still the scheme was pushed through with all vigour? "

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THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—" I may inform the hon. Member that the Lower Bhavani Project also was in the same position as the Malampuzha Scheme. The Central Government promised to give some aid so far as the Lower Bhavani Project and the Tungabhadra Project were concerned. Therefore these schemes were not slowed down. So far as the Malampuzha Scheme is concerned, as we had no funds, we had to slow down the project."

SRI R. KRISHNAN :—" May I know, Sir, how many officers were retrenched and how many coolies were thrown out as a result of the slowing down of the Malampuzha Project? When do the Government propose to take them back? When work on the project is started again, will the Government give these workers any preference?"

THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—" A separate question may be put in regard to retrenchment and appointment of men. I say that the work is now in full swing."

SRI C. V. K. RAO :—" Will the Hon. Minister tell us whether the amount that has so far been spent is in proportion to the period of time taken?"

THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—" I do not understand the hon. Member. Probably he wants to know the amount of work that has been turned out. So far as the dam is concerned, about 60 per cent of the work is done in the masonry portion and 25 per cent in the earth dam portion. So far as canals are concerned, the main canal, which is 20 miles long, has been excavated more or less fully up to the 13th mile. So, about 60 per cent of the canal work has been done. The distributaries are in various degrees of progress, and 12 per cent has been executed. The canal below mile 13 had been aligned and work commenced when funds became available."

DR. K. B. MENON :—" Why did the Government allow 1,000 acres of land to be submerged if the scheme is to be completed only in the year 1954? My information on enquiry at the spot was that it was started in 1949, and the authorities, because they thought that it would be completed by 1952, allowed (in March this year) 1,000 acres of land to be submerged. Why did this happen?"

THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—" I have no information about this. The hon. Member may put a separate question."

SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR :—" Will the Hon. Minister give us an assurance on the floor of the Assembly that till the entire project is completed, enough funds will be allotted, and that there will be no slowing down again?"

THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI :—" Any assurance given to-day may not be very useful." (Laughter.)